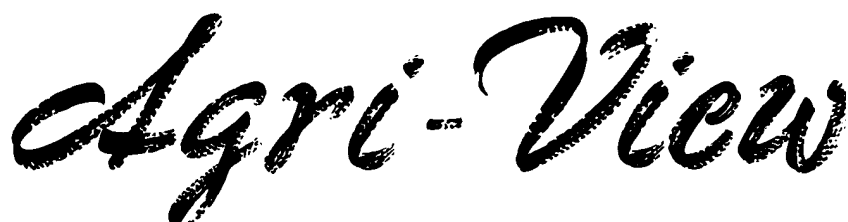


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AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE**

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**ALL FARM
PRODUCTS INDEX
DOWN 7 POINTS**

The October All Farm Products index for Minnesota was down 7 points from September.

The Crops index for October was down 13 points from September. Prices received by farmers for soybeans for October averaged \$5.09 per bushel, a decrease of 91 cents from the September price. Corn decreased 28 cents from September to an October price of \$1.89 per bushel.

The Meat Animal index increased 1 point from last month. The all hog price for October was \$54.40 per cwt., an increase of 40 cents from the September price. The all beef cattle price for October was \$74.90, a decrease of 60 cents from the September price. The Dairy Products index was unchanged from last month. The all milk price for October, at \$15.90 per cwt., was unchanged from September.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

Commodity And Unit	U.S. Oct 2004 1/	Minnesota		
		Oct 2003 2/	Sep 2004 2/	Oct 2004 1/
Barley, Feed & Malting, bu 3/	2.36	3/	1.61	1.57
Beans, Dry Edible, All, cwt	25.30	21.30	23.40	3/
Kidney, cwt	4/	3/	3/	3/
Navy, cwt	4/	3/	3/	3/
Pinto, cwt	4/	13.10	3/	3/
Corn, bu	1.89	1.99	2.17	1.89
Hay, All, Baled, ton	89.80	62.00	68.00	62.00
Alfalfa, Baled, ton	97.80	72.00	76.00	75.00
Other, Baled, ton	68.60	53.00	51.00	49.00
Oats, bu	1.37	1.34	1.33	1.32
Potatoes, cwt	4.74	5.00	6.05	5.85
Soybeans, bu	5.07	6.25	6.00	5.09
Sunflowers, All, cwt	12.90	14.20	13.80	13.40
Wheat, All, bu	3.38	3.55	3.26	3.14
Calves, cwt	127.00	99.70	119.00	125.00
Cattle, All Beef, cwt 5/	86.40	84.50	75.50	74.90
Cows, cwt, 6/	50.40	52.30	56.10	55.50
Steers & Heifers, cwt	91.10	96.40	80.70	80.00
Milk Cows, head 7/	1,640.00	1,310.00	--	1,460.00
Hogs, All, cwt	51.40	39.50	54.00	54.40
Barrows & Gilts, cwt	52.10	39.60	54.10	54.50
Sows, cwt	42.10	31.60	43.60	43.50
Lambs, cwt 8/	--	87.90	90.20	--
Sheep, cwt 8/	--	26.50	35.00	--
Milk, All, cwt	15.50	15.90	15.90	15.90
Eggs, Table Market, doz	0.30	0.70	0.34	0.28

1/ Preliminary 2/ Entire month data 3/ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms 4/ Price not set at the US level 5/ "cows" and "steers and heifers" combined. 6/ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter. 7/ Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices published in Jan., Apr., Jul., and Oct. 8/ Preliminary prices discontinued Jan. 1996.

MINNESOTA INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED (1977=100)

Commodities	U.S.* Oct 2004 1/	Minnesota		
		Oct 2003 2/	Sep 2004 2/	Oct 2004 1/
All Farm Products	111	134	140	133
Crops	106	111	117	104
Meat Animals	118	154	171	172
Dairy Products	119	180	180	180
Poultry & Eggs	115	118	95	92

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Entire month data.

* U.S. based on 1990-92=100 reference replaces 1977 = 100 beginning Jan. 1995.

U.S. INDEX SUMMARY (1990-92 = 100) *

Item	Sep 2003	Oct 2003	Sep 2004	Oct 2004
Prices Received	111	113	115	111
Prices Paid (Interest, Taxes, Wage Rates)	128	129	134	134
Parity Ratio 1/	87	88	86	83

1/ Computed by dividing Prices Received Index by Prices Paid Index.

* 1990-92=100 reference replaces 1977 = 100 beginning Jan. 1995.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

1982-1984=100 October 2003 185.0 October 2004 190.9

MINNESOTA CORN FORECAST AT RECORD HIGH BUT SOYBEAN FORECAST DOWN FROM LAST MONTH

This is the last production forecast of the season. Production figures may change between now and when the final estimates are released, due to data being collected on the end-of-season crop survey. Final acreage and production figures will be released on January 12, 2005.

CORN grain production is forecast at 1,083 billion bushels, up from the October 1 forecast, and up 3 percent from the 2002 record year. Yield is forecast at 157.0 bushels per acre, which ties the record yield set in 2002.

SOYBEAN production for Minnesota is forecast at 244.8 million bushels, down 6 percent from the October forecast but up 3 percent from 2003. Based on November 1 conditions, the yield is forecast at 34.0 bushels per acre which is down 2 bushels from October but up 2 bushels from last year.

The **SUGARBEET** crop is estimated at 9.92 million tons, up 4 percent from last month but down 1 percent from last year. Yield is estimated at 20.7 tons per acre, up 0.8 ton from October 1 but down 0.8 ton per acre from the previous record high in 2000.

FALL POTATO production is forecast at 18.5 million hundredweight, down 17 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at a new record of 430 hundredweight, up 45 hundredweight from the record high in 2003.

U.S. HIGHLIGHTS

Corn production is forecast at 11.7 billion bushels, up 1 percent from last month and 16 percent above 2003. Based on conditions as of November 1, the yield is expected to average 160.2 bushels per acre, up 1.8 bushels from October and 18.0 bushels above last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. The previous records for both were set last year when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 142.2 bushels per acre. Across the U.S., yields are forecast at record high levels in 19 of the 33 published corn States. With the exception of Wisconsin, yields in the Corn Belt States are forecast at record highs as weather conditions have been mostly favorable throughout the growing season.

Soybean production is forecast at 3.15 billion bushels, up 1 percent from October and 28 percent above 2003. If realized, this would be the largest U.S. soybean crop on record. Based on November 1 conditions, yields are expected to average a record high 42.6 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushel from October and 8.7 bushels above last year. Producers in the Corn Belt, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and the Carolinas are realizing higher yields than expected last month, while yield prospects decreased as harvest progressed in North Dakota and Minnesota. Area for harvest in the U.S. is forecast at 74.0 million acres, unchanged from last month but up 2 percent from 2003.

Sugarbeets: Production for 2004 is forecast at 29.8 million tons, 3 percent above the October forecast but 3 percent below last year's production. The yield is forecast at 22.4 tons per acre, up 0.7 ton from October but 0.3 ton below 2003. Growers in the 12 sugarbeet-producing States expect to harvest 1.33 million acres, unchanged from last month but 2 percent below last year.

Fall Potatoes: Production of fall potatoes for 2004 is forecast at 408 million cwt, down 1 percent from last year for comparable States. South Dakota and Utah were dropped from the program starting in 2004. Area harvested, at 1.02 million acres, is virtually unchanged from the July estimate but 6 percent below last year. The average yield is forecast at 398 cwt per acre, 22 cwt above last year. If realized, this will be a record high yield, 6 cwt above the previous record set in 2000.

MINNESOTA & U.S. HARVESTED ACRES, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

COMMODITY	2003 HARVESTED ACRES (000)	2004 HARVESTED ACRES (000)	2003 YIELD	2004 YIELD	2003 PRODUCTION (000)	2004 PRODUCTION (000)
MINNESOTA						
CORN (Bu)	6,650	6,900	146.0	157.0	970,900	1,083,300
SOYBEANS (Bu)	7,450	7,200	32.0	34.0	238,400	244,800
SUGARBEETS (Ton)	487	479	20.6	20.7	10,032	9,915
FALL POTATOES (Cwt)	58	43	385	430	22,330	18,490
UNITED STATES						
CORN (Bu)	71,139	73,311	142.2	160.2	10,113,887	11,740,920
SOYBEANS (Bu)	72,476	73,990	33.9	42.6	2,453,665	3,150,441
SUGARBEETS (Ton)	1,348	1,326	22.7	22.4	30,583	29,765
FALL POTATOES (Cwt)	1,091	1,025	376	398	410,588	407,786

The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducted objective yield surveys in 10 corn producing states during 2004. Randomly selected plots in corn for grain fields were visited monthly from August through harvest to obtain specific counts and measurements. Data in these tables are rounded actual field counts from this survey and are not official estimates of the Agricultural Statistics Board, but are intended to show trends in corn production practices.

**Corn for Grain: Plant Population per Acre,
Selected States, 2000-2004**

State	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
	<u>Number of plants</u>				
Iowa	26,300	26,450	26,700	27,250	27,850
Minnesota	27,150	28,000	26,800	28,800	29,250
Nebraska	23,400	22,750	23,350	23,700	24,050
Wisconsin	26,200	27,000	26,650	27,100	27,550

**Corn for Grain: Percentage Distribution by Measured Row Width and Average
Row Width, Selected States, 2004**

State	Number of Samples	<u>Row Width (inches)</u>						Average Row Width
		20.5 or less	20.6 - 30.5	30.6 - 34.5	34.6 - 36.5	36.6 - 38.5	38.6 & Greater	
		<u>Percent</u>						
Iowa	272	1.5	61.7	17.3	6.3	11.0	2.2	31.4
Minnesota	160	1.9	76.2	17.5	1.9	2.5	--	29.2
Nebraska	248	1.2	56.5	12.5	16.5	11.7	1.6	31.8
Wisconsin	88	1.1	60.3	19.3	6.8	8.0	4.5	31.2

The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducted objective yield surveys in 11 soybean producing States during 2004. Randomly selected plots in soybean fields are visited monthly from August through harvest to obtain specific counts and measurements. Data in these tables are actual field counts from this survey.

**Soybeans: Pods with Beans per 18 Square Feet
Selected States, 2000-2004**

State	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
	<u>Number of plants</u>				
Iowa	1,660	1,787	1,867	1,647	1,737
Minnesota	1,507	1,475	1,739	1,440	1,446
Nebraska	1,619	2,003	1,587	1,636	1,895

**Soybeans: Percentage Distribution by Measured Row Width
and Average Width, Selected States, 2004**

State	Number of Samples	<u>Row Width (inches)</u>					Average Row Width 1/
		10.0 & Less	10.1 - 18.5	18.6 - 28.5	28.6 - 34.5	34.6 & Greater	
		<u>Percent</u>					
Iowa	207	15.0	35.3	8.0	37.9	3.8	21.3
Minnesota	101	20.8	25.2	20.3	30.7	3.0	20.2
Nebraska	101	14.4	35.6	5.4	31.2	13.4	22.3

1/ Broadcast soybeans included as "10.0 inches and less" but excluded in computation of average width.

SEPTEMBER EGG OUTPUT DOWN 1% IN STATE

Minnesota layers produced 234 million eggs during September 2004 versus 237 million in September 2003. Laying flocks in the U.S. produced 7.32 billion eggs in September, up 3% from a year ago.

POULTRY STATS - SEPTEMBER

		2003	2004
Total Eggs Produced	MN	237 Mil.	234 Mil.
	U.S.	7,112 Mil.	7,319 Mil.
Number of Layers	MN	11.0 Mil.	10.6 Mil.
	U.S.	334.2 Mil.	343.1 Mil.
Eggs per 100 Layers	MN	2,151	2,200
	U.S.	2,128	2,133

CHICKENS:

Hatched (September)

Egg-Type	MN	1.1 Mil.	.8 Mil.
	U.S.	35.8 Mil.	36.8 Mil.
Broiler-Type	U.S.	739.5 Mil.	769.9 Mil.

Eggs in Incubators (October 1)

Egg-Type	WNC*	6.8 Mil.	6.8 Mil.
	U.S.	29.8 Mil.	33.7 Mil.
Broiler-Type	WNC*	20.8 Mil.	21.7 Mil.
	U.S.	601.6 Mil.	616.7 Mil.

TURKEYS:

Placed (September)	WNC*	8.8 Mil.	9.3 Mil.
	U.S.	22.2 Mil.	21.3 Mil.

Eggs in Incubators (October 1)

	WNC*	11.2 Mil.	10.5 Mil.
	U.S.	28.1 Mil.	26.7 Mil.

*West North Central Region (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North & South Dakota, Minnesota.)

OCTOBER MILK OUTPUT UP 1 PERCENT IN MINNESOTA

Totaling 660 million pounds, the state's October milk production was up 1% from October 2003.

Output per cow was 1,420 pounds in October, up 10 pounds from last October. Milk cows for October averaged 465,000 head, the same as September and a year ago.

October 2004 milk output in the 20 major states was 12.25 billion pounds, up 1 percent from October 2003. Milk cows in the 20 states averaged 7.77 million head, up 26,000 from the previous year. At 1,576 pounds, production per cow was 15 pounds greater than October 2003.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2004 MILK STATS

State	Milk Production		Percent of Previous Year	
	Sep	Oct	Sep	Oct
	Million Lbs.		Percent	
California	2,979	3,080	105	105
Idaho	767	779	104	104
Minnesota	635	660	100	101
New York	929	949	97	98
Pennsylvania	795	825	99	99
Wisconsin	1,784	1,826	100	100
20 States	11,878	12,245	101	101

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